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Moses Coit Tyler, Hist Am Lit, (New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1879), pp. 94-95

In 1691, a thrifty old merchant of Boston, Joshua Scottow, who had grown up with the colony almost from the beginning, published a little book of senile lamentations over the degeneracy of the age. It was called “Old Men’s Tears for their own declensions.”

Encouraged by this stroke at authorship, he gave to the press, three years afterward, “A Narrative of the Planting of the Massachusetts Colony,” beginning with 1628, and particularly accenting the fact of “the Lord’s signal presence the first thirty years.” Both books have some historical and psychological value, but as literature are worthless. His method of expression is spasmodic, ecstatic, full of apocalyptic symbols, cant, forced allusions, and the croakings of decrepitude. In the dedication of his second book to Simon Bradstreet, he had the good sense to anticipate that his writings might be pronounced “the delirious dotage of his puerile and superannuated brains.”

2 A second edition was published in 1749, but without the best part of it, the “Address to the Reader.”